

Stoke, and Upton, which Ralph Basset then held.

In a book of fifteenths and tenths granted by the laity in 1416, Stoke was rated at 12. 5s., and in the subsidy of 1445, at the same sum; but an abatement was then made of 5s.

In 1427, it was found that Joan (who was the wife of Roger Swillington, Knight) died seised of two messuages and one virgate and a half of land, with the appurtenances, in Stoke, held of Sir Reginald de Grey, Lord of Ruthin.

In 1429, it was found that Margaret (daughter of Roger Swillington, Knight, and wife of John Gra, Knight, died seised of two messuages, and two virgates and a half of land, with the appurtenances, in Stoke, held of Reginald de Grey, of Ruthin, Knight.

In 1433, Baldwin Bugg, Esq., released all his right in all his lands and tenements in Stoke to Thomas Crull.

In 1474, it was found that Margaret (wife of Thomas Everingham, Kt.) died seised of the manor of Stoke, held of the king as of his duchy of Lancaster.

In 1506, it was found that — Turville died seised of the manor of Stoke, held of the king as of the honour of Leicester.

"This manor containeth thirty-two yard lands; whereof twenty-three and three-quarters was the ancient inheritance of Rafe, Lord of Basset, of Sapcote, in the time of King Edward the First, who held the same of John, Lord Hastings (whose issue was after Earl of Pembroke), as of his manor of Dadlington. From Basset (by an heir general) it came to Moton, and in like manner from Moton to Harrington, all which did appear for the said land at the Court Baron of the said manor of Dadlington, and performed the suits and services for the same, as it appeared to be proved by divers ancient court rolls belonging to the said manor; and also by inquisitions and records. The other eight yard lands and a quarter (as it appeareth by an inquisition taken 24 Hen. VI., after the death of Reginald Moton) was some time the inheritance of Sir

Roger de Stoke, Kt., who gave it in frank marriage to Sir Robert de Champaigne, Kt., with Margaret his daughter; which Robert was descended from the ancient Earls of Champaigne, one of the peers of France, whose lineal ancestor being a cadet of the said earl's house, coming into England with King William the Conqueror, received from him great lands and possessions in this shire and in the counties of Northampton, Oxford, Lincoln, and Salop. The heir general of Champaigne was married to Toorville, from whom (by alienation made) it came to Sir John Harrington, Kt., Lord Harrington, of Exton, who being afterwards seised of the whole lordship, inclosed it, and soon after sold it to the several tenants; the deed tending to the uses of the fine and recovery bearing date June 1, 3 Jac. I., wherein there is mention of a messuage and several closes to be settled for the use of William Cart."

Nov. 3, 1604, Sir John Harrington sold to Oliver Hendman, of Stoke Golding, for 20*l.*, two closes in Stoke, called "the Oulden," lying together, between Hinckley-field and Oulden-lane, warranted from any incumbrance done or committed by the said Lord Harrington or Sir James Harrington, Kt., deceased, father of Sir John Harrington, Kt., his grandfather, or Sir Robert Moulton, Kt., his great grandfather, or Henry Turville, of Aston Flamville, Esq. [Stoke Golding had recently been inclosed.]

Thomas Hendman died July 20, 1618, seised of a capital messuage, two bovates of land, containing 76 acres, at Stoke Golding, 10 acres of which, called Turville's land, part of Turville's manor, and 31 acres, called Harrington's lands, part of Upton manor.

Francis Brokesby died, Dec. 5, 1633; seised of six closes of pasture, &c., at Stoke Golding, one part held of the king as Earl of Leicester, the rest of the manor of Hinckley.

In 1655, there was collected in Stoke Golding, for the relief of the poor Protestants of Piedmont, the sum of 2*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

In 1703, Francis Brokesby owned and lived

on his estate at Stoke, of a capital messuage and 100 acres of land, who gave it to his only son Richard; who died without issue, and left it to his three sisters; and they, in 1730, conveyed it to Andrew Noel, of Burbage, Esq., for 1,786*l.* He died in 1736, and gave it to his nephew, James Wigley, Esq., of Scraptoft, M.P., for the borough of Leicester, who died in 1765, and left it by will to Thomas Boothby, jun., Esq., of Marston, and to the Rev. Henry Wigley, then Vicar of Scraptoft, to be sold, and the mooney arising to be applied in making such additions, alterations, and improvements about his mansion at Scraptoft, as they should seem necessary or convenient; and in case there should be afterwards any surplus remaining, it was to be laid out in buying some useful furniture, to go along with and to be used in his said mansion-house. And his heir-at-law, Edward Hartopp Wigley, Esq., of Little Dalby, in 1799 sold the same estate in five lots for upwards of 3,000*l.*, when a moiety of the whole was purchased by William Brown, Esq., of Hinckley.

In 1775, sixteen freeholders polled for Stoke. In this village, in 1790, there were 70 families.

By the return made to Parliament in 1801, it appeared that Stoke contained 82 houses, inhabited by 87 families, 194 males 193 females, in all 387; of whom 58 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 79 in trade, manufactures, &c.

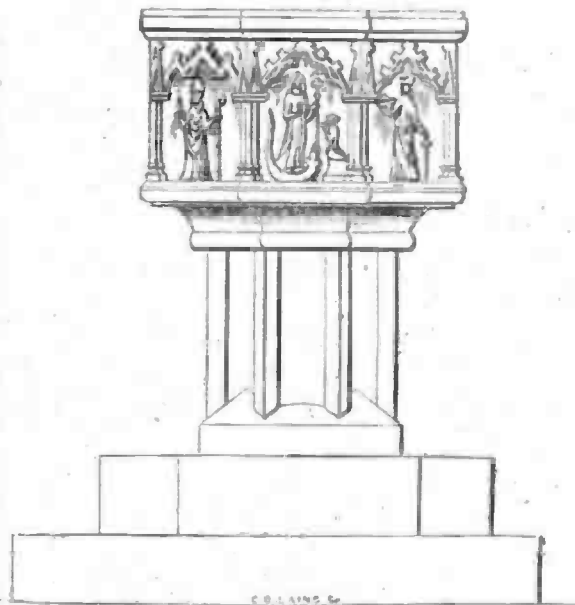
In the field still known by the name of "Crown Hill" (three acres of which were owned in 1810 by William Sheen of Stoke), close to the north-west end of the village, there have been dug up many human skeletons; which are very common on breaking fresh ground.

A tradition remains that the crown was secreted on this hill (which is but just without the town), and that it was found afterwards by Sir Reginald Bray.

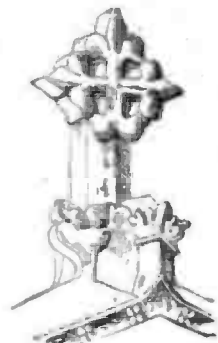
Stoke consists of about 1200 acres of land; no great part of which is ploughed, but chiefly used in dairying and feeding cattle.



CROSS ON THE  
SOUTH-EAST  
GABEL.



ELEVATION OF THE FONT.



CROSS ON THE NORTH-  
EAST GABEL.

#### DECORATIVE WORKS OF ART

Sent in, pursuant to the notices issued by her Majesty's Commissioners on the Fine Arts, now Exhibiting in King-street, St. James's-street, Westminster.

We have taken a view of these works, but must defer till next week entering into any detailed account of them.

The number of subjects, according to the official catalogue, is 170, but some specimens have been since added to the collection.

We have heard complaints uttered that from some cause many of the most able artists, designers, and workers of these matters of art, have abstained from contributing, while others

of eminence who have sent, have either submitted inferior specimens, or such as are little, if at all, applicable to the pile of buildings proposed to be decorated. This, we have been told, has mainly arisen from such parties having been straitly importuned to contribute, lest an exhibition from which so much was expected should be entirely bare of worthy specimens. In the collection there are some exemplars for iron-work; but, taking these as a whole, they do little credit to the state of English art in that department.

Perhaps while Britain affords such a wonderful proficiency in the mining, manufacture, and general application of iron, there is less general art, properly so called, in its formation,

than in the case of any other material which is manipulated; the peculiar facilities of moulding, forging, and otherwise working this metal, have rendered it one of the most useful generally applied, and indeed necessary materials, which can subserve the purposes of man's wants. Hence it is of the first importance that good taste be bestowed in forming the prototypes from which such prodigious numbers of copies may be made, as in the case of stoves, fenders, and the innumerable articles which are of every-day use, which instead of being overdone with a profusion of tawdry tasteless decoration, as is mostly the case at present, may be fashioned so that any one of decency of feeling may choose them, and not